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introduced also. The other pictures are L. Paskel with his wife and children and grand children.

Pictured together with the celebration is the Minister of Justice Rudy Croes with the President of Parliament Mrs. Mervin Ras on Monday August 17th 2009 at the headquarters of the "Cuerpo Especial Arubano". □

ORANJESTAD - On Monday August 17th 2009 at the headquarters of the "Cuerpo Especial Arubano", the C.E.A. was celebrating: a group of security members who had just finished a course in basic security. Pictures with their instructor Mr. Maxwell. Also celebrating the fact that Mr. Laurence Hyacinto Paskel, the chief of the CEA has been working for 25 years with the government of Aruba. Two new cars had been handed over to the Minister of Justice by Mr. Tony Hartman of Garage Central with their new logos on them. The new official flag of the Cuerpo Especial Arubano was





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PALM BEACH — The an Okeanos Spa Summer Renaissance Aruba Resort just promotion. The offer aptly conceived an unforgettable, called Royal Romance for-two, experience, as includes a 50-minute indoor,

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Smith's Steak & Chop House. Just one very lucky couple reservation will be accepted per night.

The tremendous experience designed to renew and refresh the body and the mind has a modest price tag attached of just \$275 per couple, and reservations may be called in to Tel.: 523 6176. Patrons are invited to come into the Spa for their treatment after 4 pm. The restaurant will have their table available from 5:30 pm. The culinary experience starts off with a welcome flute of Kir Royal, followed by a fresh green salad with croutons and blue cheese dressing, or a baby spinach salad with warm bacon vinaigrette, bacon, fresh mushrooms, and pine nuts.

For main courses the restaurant features a Yellow Fin Tuna Steak grilled to medium rare and served with mashed potatoes, green asparagus and a mango coriander sauce or a Petite Fillet Mignon, marinated and grilled to perfection with roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetable and mushroom in a Cabernet sauce. The dessert, fresh tropical fruit with vanilla ice-cream and Grand Marnier Sabayon, truly concludes the exceptional evening with a sweet sensation.

The images speak louder than words, the lovely spa, the elegant restaurant and the Renaissance promise of a fantastic time, make Royal Romance one of summer's most irresistible offers. □

Saba holds disaster meeting for Hurricane Bill

THE BOTTOM, SABA - On Tuesday morning, a disaster meeting was held in The Bottom at the Government Administration Building. The meeting was coordinated by Head of the Fire Department, Julio Every, and Chaired by Acting Lieutenant Governor Roy Smith.

In the meeting they discussed the precautionary measures taken for tropical storm Ana, and it was agreed that everything went smoothly. Mr. Julio Every stated that it was a good decision to close the schools in order to be safe.

Some issues arising out of the meeting was a concern for greater communication, such as satellite phones, over that of traditional cell phones.

Despite the fact that Hurricane Bill is expected to pass north of the Islands, Saba will continue to treat the hurricane as a potential disaster strike. In this regard, all department heads and disaster team members will remain in contact and on alert of any changes in the weather system. A future meeting will be called if necessary.



Executive Council with several Department Heads at Disaster Meeting.

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Aruba International PRO-AM Golf Tournament unfolds August 19th to 24th



WEST PUNT – The Aruba Tourism Authority hosted an informal press conference at Tierra del Sol Golf Course to announce the 15th annual Aruba Pro-Am Golf Tournament coming this weekend. Twenty-four teams will participate hailing from 10 countries with the USA, St. Thomas, Holland, Aruba, Curacao, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia and Argentina among them. The international representatives of the Aruba

Tourism Authority have been preparing for this world class golf event by running “Copa Aruba,” a local golf tournament in their respective countries.

The winners of those local tournaments were selected to play here at the Aruba International PRO-AM Golf Tournament, unfolding August 19th to 24th at Tierra del Sol. The Aruba International Pro-Am tournament born as the Johnny Walker Tournament changed its name 8 years

ago when the Aruba Tourism Authority took it over as an international event promotion Aruba as a golf destination. Nevertheless, Johnny Walker and its local distributor, The Aruba Trading Company remained the top sponsor in conjunction with Tropical Bottling, Caribbean Mercantile Bank and Suzuki, offering a car for the winner of a-hole-in-one during the two-day tournament.

Registration will take place on Friday at the club-house, with

a shot gun start scheduled for 12:30 on Saturday.

Helping host players during their stay, the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, Divi Village and Tierra del Sol's villa rental department.

Some top Golf Pros are

expected to play such as Aaron West from Puerto Rico, Raul Sanz, from Venezuela and Jay Overton from the USA as well as the local pros from Tierra del Sol, Oliver Riding and Adam Williamson and from Divi Links James Kiley. □



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Couple has cookout for Aruba baseball team



Members of the Senior League baseball team from Aruba sign a program for Kayden Quinn, grandson of Albert and Barbara Harmon of Hancock during a cookout Monday at the Harmon's home. The Harmon's spend time in Aruba each year wanted to do something special to welcome the team to Maine.

By Rich Hewitt

HANCOCK, Maine — Down East met down south on Tuesday — way down south.

Albert and Barbara Harmon played host at a cookout for the Aruban baseball team from

San Nicolas, their coaches and the family and friends traveling with them. The team is in Maine to compete in the Senior League World Series, which began Saturday in Bangor.

The Harmons greeted the 50

or so Arubans as friends, even though they had never met before.

The couple has been traveling to Aruba, an island in the southern Caribbean, twice a year since 1998 and have become very fond of the island and its people.

"They are the warmest, friendliest people in the world," Albert Harmon said. "We just fell in love with the people."

They put together the event by phone without ever meeting any of the team members or the adults.

"When we heard Aruba was going to be in the Senior League championships, we started calling friends to see if there was a way we could connect with them," Barbara Harmon said. They were put in touch with Ruth Melfor, the official scorer for the Aruban team and over the past two weeks, through



Albert and Barbara Harmon (on deck) welcome the Senior League baseball team from Aruba to a cookout at their home in Hancock on Monday. The couple befriended the team and those traveling with it based on their love for the island, which the Harmons visit each year. The team is in Maine to compete in the Senior League World Series, which began Saturday

a steady stream of phone calls, made arrangements for the get-together, which featured some Maine traditions such as red hot dogs, lobster rolls, and blueberry and strawberry desserts.

"It has been wonderful," Melfor said. "Everything is nice, the people are nice."

The team drove from Boston to Bangor, and Melfor said their first impression of Maine was that it was "chilly." She claimed the team had brought the recent hot weather with them.

For many, this is their first trip to the U.S. "It's a beautiful place," said 16-year-old catcher Jair Bogaerts. "It's big."

Aruba is an island 20 miles long and 6 miles wide, and San Nicolas is the second-largest city on the island, a different atmosphere from the rural town of Hancock. "It doesn't take so long to get from one place to the next," said coach Milton Croes, who with manager Gregory Manuel and coach Norman Sylvania direct the 16-member team of 15- and 16-year-olds. Croes had visited the U.S. before,

in 1982, when he played in the Senior League World Series in Gary, Ind. The team from Aruba finished fifth that year, he said, and the team hopes to do better than that this year.

"After 27 years, to come back again, it's very nice," Croes said. "I can't explain the feelings."

He has been involved in Senior League baseball over the years, always hoping to bring a team to the championship.

"We've been so close to the championship," Croes said. "We're always fighting to bring the kids back here. To win would be a big boost for baseball in Aruba, for the kids and for the community on the island."

The outing to the Harmons' is the only sightseeing the team plans to do. Their focus is all on the games. "We didn't come to see anything," Bogaerts said. "We came to win the championship." The Arubans, who are the Latin American champions, were off to a good start and won their first game on Sunday, 8-4. The championship game is Saturday □

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Brian Camacho, seen here pitching against Rota during the district meet, was the winning pitcher in the CNMI Junior All-Stars' 13-2 debut win over Italy on Sunday in the World Series in Taylor, Michigan. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

By Roselyn Monroyo

The CNMI Junior All-Stars failed to keep their momentum in the World Series, losing to Aruba, 3-5, on Monday night at the Heritage Park in Taylor, Michigan. The loss dropped the CNMI to a tie for second place in the International Pool with Italy. The CNMI youth sluggers had a big win in their World Series return after a five-year hiatus, following a 13-2 rout of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Little League of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy on Sunday night. Italy recovered from a debut loss with a 9-8 win over Canada, which dropped to a 0-2 start. Aruba and Puerto Rico have identical 1-0 slate to complete the International Pool. Only the Top 2 teams

in the International Pool will advance to the next round. The CNMI bets were in control of the game and leading at 3-1, when a four-run top of the seventh lifted the Aruba North Little League of Oranjestad to a come-from-behind win.

Neither team scored in four and a half innings until the Commonwealth recorded a three-run bottom of the fifth. Henry Rabaulman singled with one out, stole second, and scored on two-out ground-rule double off Ricardo Dela Cruz. An RBI single from Patrick Tenorio brought Dela Cruz home and the former scored on the back half of a double steal. Aruba then made it to the scoreboard at the top of the sixth with Wilmer Imperator reaching home

CNMI bows to Aruba in World Series

plate on an RBI single from Ray-Patrick Dider. At bottom of the sixth, the CNMI had several chances to score, as it had the bases loaded with no outs. However, relief pitcher Dider spoiled the Commonwealth's bid with a strikeout and Aruba made two 6-4-3 putout plays. At the top of the seventh, Shawn Duinker made a two-run single to tie the game and later it was starting pitcher Aldeir Croes' turn to hit a two-run single that drove Dider and Duinker home. Dider saved the win by retiring CNMI batters at the bottom of the seventh. The CNMI bets were

scheduled to take a break on Tuesday and return to action today, as they face the winless Canada in the first game at 11am (7pm on Saipan). The Commonwealth's last game will be against Puerto Rico on Thursday. A win over Canada will help Thelma Mizer-managed squad surpass the record of the five other CNMI teams that competed in the Junior League division of the World Series. The CNMI made it to the World Series from 2001 to 2005, but no team tallied more than one win in that streak. Meanwhile, Jeremy Rabaulman led the CNMI's debut win over Italy, going

2-for-4 at bat and scoring two runs and two RBIs. Also hitting 2-for-4 at the plate was catcher Henry Rabaulman, who tallied one run and two RBIs. Tenorio had a 2-for-4 performance, too, and recorded three runs and one RBI. Lamarc Iguel, Brian Camacho, Aldebert Lizama, Frankie Camacho, Christian Mizer, and Poland Masaharu made one RBIs each. Brian Camacho pitched 5.3 innings for the CNMI, allowed three hits, gave up two runs, and walked five. He made only two errors and struck out six. Iguel took Brian Camacho's place for 1.6 innings and had three strikeouts. □



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Gloria & Chris are wed on Pure Beach



PALM BEACH -- Gloria and Chris Destombes said "I do" on Saturday at a civil ceremony, followed by a beach blessing at sunset at Pure Beach, as they celebrated their multicultural union on Aruba.

Gloria is a longtime Aruba resident, a well-known bartender and waitress,

originally from Colombia. Chris, an electrical engineer from Holland, came here last year on vacation and reports in his own words that "it was love at first sight". He has been traveling back and forth ever since the two met, but as he popped the question they both decided to get married



here and live in Holland. Chris' parents flew in on the



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occasion from the Netherlands, and Gloria's mom arrived from Cali, Colombia. Gloria's friends, long-time Aruba visitors Peggy & Kim also hailed from Maine.

Gloria, who was her own wedding-coordinator-extraordinaire, created a dream wedding, and will continue to enjoy the hospitality of the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort with her fresh husband on their honeymoon.

Following the blessings the wedding party enjoyed a tropical dinner buffet at Pure Beach, the resort's newest lounge bar & restaurant, and free flowing libations to the tunes of an excellent sax player. □



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PALM BEACH – Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping...

auto-biography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana. Papillon restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

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Papillon's opening hours are from 5 pm until midnight. The restaurant's daily specials will be explained by the staff. For reservations, please call 586 5400 or go to www.papillonaruba.com.

Papillon Restaurant is located in The Village, just across from the Radisson Resort.

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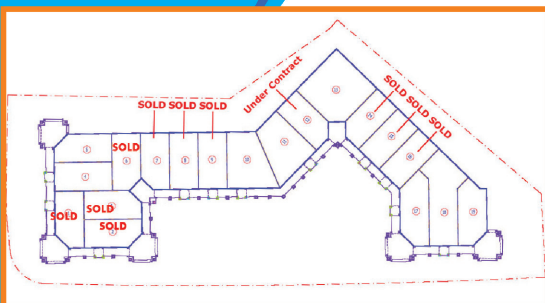
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And the Winners Are ...

Boolchand's & Tierra del Sol announce Heritage Cup Results



TIERRA DEL SOL -- Aruba's first golf series concluded last Saturday as the last of the 5 week series of events for the 2009 Tierra del Sol Heritage Cup presented by Boolchand's, came to a festive end. Head Pro Oliver Riding and Ravee Boolchand had the distinct honor of awarding prizes to

the winners at an informal award ceremony hosted by Amadeus Bar & Restaurant in Tanki Leendert. The final results of the Tierra del Sol Heritage Cup listed Stallin Tullod, Cisco Quant, Maurice de L'Isle, Nigel Nedd, Rey Rasmijn, Junior Croes, Hunt Riley, Axl Ismael,



Benno Oldenhof & Orlando Rasmijn as the top ten players.

The Stableford standing for the 5th and last round in the Heritage Cup series listed Maurice De L'Isle, Axl Ismael, Stallin Tullod, Ricky Quant, Henk Steenberg, Hunt Riley, Patrick Haime, Ravee Boolchand, Patrick Boset, & Shine Helmen as the top players for that day. George Wong won the longest drive on hole #6 and Hunt Riley was closest to the pin on hole #13.

Tierra del Sol is proud to have teamed up with Boolchand and BOSE in order to make this event a success and is already working on next year's expanded event format perhaps with additional sponsors. □



At Historical Town Hall

Nigel & Jayne say "I Do"



ORANJESTAD - On August 8, 2009 Jayne Matthews & Nigel Bedford vowed their love at the Historical Town Hall downtown. The officiate, Betto Christiaans welcomed Jayne & Nigel to Aruba. Betto delivered the sermon together with the witnesses Chris & Mick

Gomm. Jayne & Nigel exchanged vows and rings as they said "I Do" and gave a high five in return with an everlasting kiss. Following the civil ceremony the newlyweds and best friends enjoyed a photo shoot with Bella Aruba Photography at Town

Hall and Willamina Park. We wanted somewhere special for our "BIG DAY" and after two visits to Aruba we knew Aruba was the perfect place." replied Jayne and added "We want to thank Lissy Lampe of Ceremonies and Celebrations in Aruba for coordinating our wedding day and making our day stress free".

The dinner reception took place that evening at Chalet Suisse.

Congratulations from Aruba Today ☐

Photography by Angela Munzenhofer



Duncan: No more military training in Curaçao for St. Maarten youth



PHILIPSBURG--With the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles looming next year, St. Maarten will not send any more youngsters for military training in Curaçao.

Home and Constitutional Affairs Minister Roland Duncan said yesterday that once the Netherlands Antilles no longer exists, and unless legislation is written into law,

there will be no legal basis to send youth from Country St. Maarten to undergo military training in Country Curaçao.

While the number of youngsters seeking military training has increased significantly over the last few years, St. Maarten has to decide how it will handle this aspect in the planning for country status, he said, adding that he had written reports on

how to move forward with military training, but had yet to discuss it with leader of government Commissioner William Marlin.

Thus far, Curaçao military service leaders have agreed with his approach to suspend sending youngsters from St. Maarten. The Dutch Ministry of Defence still has to decide on Duncan's proposals, including funding military training in St. Maarten, if that's the direction St. Maarten's political leaders decide to go. One example the Minister used as a possible starting point for St. Maarten is the Voluntary Corps St Maarten VKS, which he said already has familiar military training protocols that can be adjusted or transformed into military training for young people. He said this kind of training would be beneficial for all uniform services for Country St. Maarten.

"We are dealing with some very outdated laws in terms of military service and as St. Maarten moves towards country, we should be able to conduct our own military service," Minister Duncan said. "One aspect that has to change, for example, is the admittance of women into the service. In this day and age, we are still dealing with discriminatory laws that prohibit women from entering the service. This all has to change," he said.

Addressing the concerns of youngsters who recently returned to St. Maarten after being rejected by the service, Duncan said St. Maarten's boys usually are at a disadvantage

in Curaçao. He mentioned as examples the language barrier, with Dutch or Papiamentu the instruction language, and the fact that they are tested again in Curaçao after being tested in St. Maarten.

"I have challenged the grounds on which boys from St. Maarten are rejected, but I am often confronted with the reality of the situation," he said, adding that Curaçao can easily fill the total quota of 75 boys from the Antilles each time the military training service period comes around. So St. Maarten boys also face the challenge of having to perform exceptionally in order not to be rejected and replaced, he concluded. □

School for all

School started a day later than scheduled due to the passing of Tropical Depression Ana. For a number of children that will not be the case, however, because of problems placing undocumented children at the various schools.

While the compulsory education law has been on the books in the Netherlands Antilles for years, St. Maarten has been unable to implement it because of the large number of children without legal residency, many of whom ended up at informal so-called "undocumented" schools that are not under the supervision of education authorities. Official schools were reluctant to take such children in the past and at one point there was even a letter from the Lt. Governor stating they could not do so, mainly because of possible legal consequences.

An effort has now been made to register such children between four and six years of age at the basic school entry level, but the ensuing flurry of applications at the various schools caused administrative problems. While 58 of the 141 children involved who were registered by the Education Department some months ago had already been placed in public schools, the others will have to wait one or two weeks.

Hopefully, it will not take longer than that, because the children involved have as a rule already been disadvantaged enough due to their status, usually through no fault of their own.

That there are concerns about the availability of educators is certainly not encouraging news with the school year already starting, but the department says it has a database from which it can assign potential teachers. To what extent these "potential" teachers are actually ready to stand in front of the classroom – also in light of the ongoing education innovations – remains to be seen, but the authorities and individual school boards no doubt will do what they can to address the issue as best possible. All in all, while the implementation of compulsory education is not without problems, at least it is being attempted seriously for the first time and all agree that every child allowed to live on the island has a right to basic education, no matter what his or her circumstances or legal status. All students should actually be more conscious the value of that right, and act accordingly. □

Tuitt proposed as acting Lt. Governor

PHILIPSBURG--The National Alliance (NA)/Heyliger coalition has suggested Roland Tuitt, Certified Public Accountant and board member of the Committee on Financial Supervision CFT, to replace acting Lt. Governor Millicent Acuna Lopez-de Weever. Tuitt's credentials and background are being vetted by the relevant Central Government Departments and the justice authorities. A formal response on his candidacy is expected in the coming weeks, this newspaper understands.

It's no secret that National Alliance (NA) Leader and Leader of Government William Marlin has not been happy with Acuna Lopez-de Weever's way of conducting Island Council meetings.

He voiced his concerns about her knowledge of the Islands Regulation of the Netherlands Antilles (ERNA) and her ability to apply the rules of the meeting last week Thursday. Marlin said because of this shortcoming, the acting Lt. Governor had allowed in particular Democratic Party (DP) Leader Island Councilwoman Sarah Wescot-Williams to circumvent or ignore meeting rules.

Acuna Lopez-de Weever was appointed for two years on recommendation of the former DP-led government on February 26, 2008. She succeeded Mathias Voges, who resigned from the post after 17 years of service.

Some controversy erupted about her

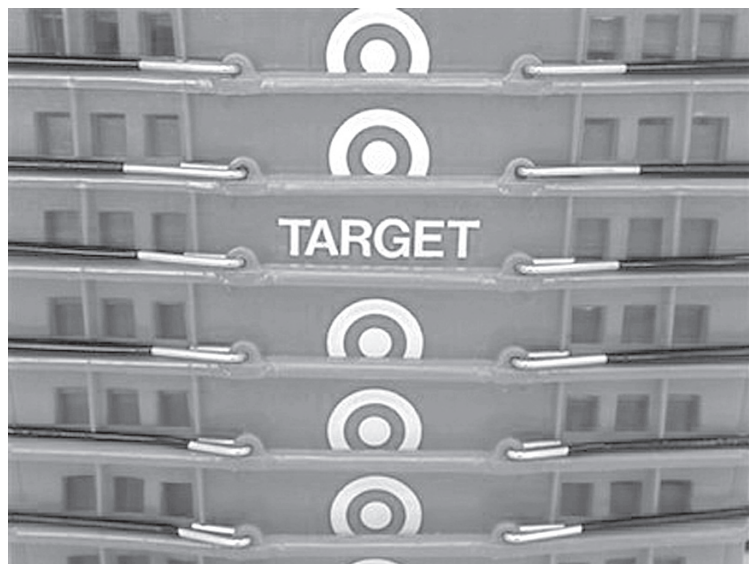
appointment, because she was Democratic Party (DP) Island Councilman Petrus "Leroy" de Weever's sister. This blood relationship was in some conflict with the ERNA. However, the Central Government vetted and approved her appointment and despite outcry from some legal heads, the decision was not reversed. Acuna Lopez-de Weever had served as a member of the Island Council several years ago.

Similarly, Tuitt was a parliamentarian for the NA's predecessor, the St. Maarten Patriotic Alliance (SPA). He also served as a "professional" commissioner (vakgedeputeerde) for SPA from 1994-1999. As a professional commissioner, Tuitt had no vote in the Island Council, but was a full-fledged member of the Executive Council.

If Tuitt is appointed acting Lt. Governor, he may have to relinquish his membership on the CFT board, because the two functions will have some conflict. The CFT is charged with overseeing government's finances, while the acting Lt. Governor is de facto party of government, because he/she is chairperson of the Executive and Island Councils in the absence of the Lt. Governor.

It is also understood that St. Eustatius acting Lt. Governor Gerald Berkel is the front runner for appointment as that island's new Lt. Governor. Holding that post now is Hyden Gittens. □

Earnings data help stocks regain ground after drop



FILE - In this May 20, 2009 file photo, shopping baskets are stacked at a Chicago area Target store. Target said Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2009, its second-quarter profit fell 6.3 percent, but results surpassed Wall Street forecasts amid cost-cutting initiatives and improvements in its credit-card business.

(AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast, file)

By SARA LEPRO,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Some better-than-expected retail earnings reports and the latest reading on housing are drawing investors back into the stock market.

Stocks rebounded Tuesday from the previous day's selloff, with major indicators rising about 1 percent, led by a surge in financial and technology companies. Investors were

still wary about consumer spending and the economy as a whole, but found enough good news in retailers' reports and the Commerce Department's latest take on the housing market to justify the comeback.

Analysts said investors were putting things in perspective, believing that Monday's big drop, in which the Dow Jones industrials tumbled 186 points, was a bit overdone. The U.S.

market was also taking some cues from overseas exchanges, which got a boost from encouraging news about the German economy. And bond prices retreated as investors' anxiety about the economy eased.

"The outlook for the economy doesn't change every 24 hours," said Alan Skrainka, chief market strategist at Edward Jones. "The news is always mixed even after you've hit bottom."

Investors have been battling mixed signals on the economy for several weeks; housing and manufacturing have been improving, but consumer spending is still sagging. On Monday, stocks fell by the biggest amount in six weeks as investors' growing fears that consumers won't spend enough to lift the economy into recovery caught up with them.

The earnings reports from retailers on Tuesday showed that American consumers are still shy about spending, but results weren't quite as bad as analysts expected and that helped calm some of investors' nerves.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Department reported that construction of new homes and apartments fell more

than expected last month, but construction of single-family homes actually rose 1 percent to the highest level since October 2008. It was the fifth straight monthly increase.

Analysts have warned that the market has gotten ahead of itself and that some pullback is inevitable, given the more than 40 percent climb in stocks since March and the challenges that still exist in high unemployment and waning consumer confidence. But the market continues to show resilience, with any retreat in stocks being brief.

In midafternoon trading, the Dow rose 84.42, or 0.9 percent, to 9,219.76. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 9.80, or 1.0 percent, to 989.53, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 25.02, or 1.3 percent, to 1,955.86.

In other trading, the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 8.89, or 1.6 percent, to 557.07.

About four stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to a light 551.8 million shares.

Overseas markets also rebounded from steep declines on Tuesday. Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 0.2 percent.

Major European indexes rose after a research institute reported that consumer confidence is rising in Germany, Europe's largest economy. Britain's FTSE 100, Germany's DAX index and France's CAC-40 all added 0.9 percent.

Meanwhile, bond prices dipped after the previous day's big gains, which were a response to investors' nervousness about the economy. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves in the opposite direction from its price, rose to 3.52 percent from 3.47 percent late Monday.

John Wilson, chief technical strategist at Morgan Keegan, said he's encouraged that investors keep seeing opportunities in the market's dips.

"Buying tends to come in a little quicker because people have missed the market," he said, referring to the recent surge in stocks that has taken the S&P 500 index up 12 percent in a little over a month and 45.5 percent since early March.

"The data is not going to all of a sudden turn positive," he said. However, "more and more people are beginning to embrace the fact that we're through the worst of the recession."

The big question for investors now is how strong the economy's recovery will be. The market is trying to gauge how big of a drag consumers will be on the economy if unemployment remains elevated for some time, leaving consumers uneasy about spending too freely.

"There's volatility because investors have a lot of questions," Skrainka said. "What will the recovery look like and how much of this is already reflected in stock prices?"

Investors once again bought stocks that are dependent on a healthy economy, including financial, industrial and technology companies. Gains in industries that tend to hold up better when the economy is weak, like health care and utilities, were more subdued.



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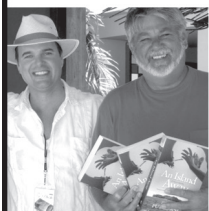


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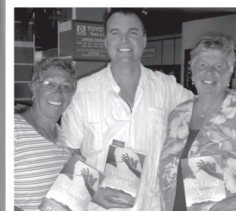
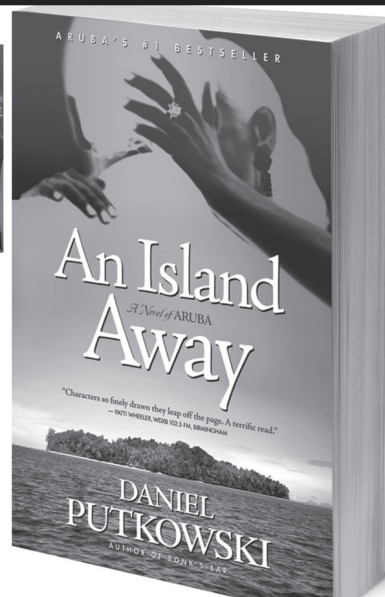
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Bob Kunkel of Niagara Falls, N.Y., loads driveway sealer into his trunk at Home Depot in Williamsville, N.Y., Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009. Home Depot Inc. said Tuesday that its fiscal second-quarter profit fell 7 percent, as the nation's biggest home-improvement retailer shuttered its Expo business and continued to be pinched by the recession.

(AP Photo/David Duprey)

**By MAE ANDERSON,
AP Retail Writer**

NEW YORK — Home Depot Inc. on Tuesday that its fiscal second-quarter profit fell 7 percent, as consumers continued to shy away from bigger purchases, but cost cutting and sales of smaller items such as paint and garden products helped results beat expectations.

The nation's biggest home-improvement retailer said total transactions in the U.S. increased year-over-year for the first time in five years and same-store sales rates improved in Florida and California, two of its most important — and troubled — markets. It lifted its guidance for full-year earnings from continuing operations. Shares rose 74 cents, or 2.8 percent, to \$26.85 during afternoon trading.

Still, similar to its rival Lowe's Cos. on Monday, Home Depot reported a sales decline as consumers continue to cut back. Investors have been closely watching consumer

spending since it accounts for 70 percent of all U.S. economic activity. But Chairman and CEO Frank Blake said he does not expect positive same-store sales until the second half of 2010. Blake said Home Depot took market share from competitors, but he added that same-store sales remained negative in all regions except those experiencing hurricanes last year. In California, double-digit same-store sales declines improved to single-digit declines. In Florida, there were still some markets with same-store sales declines in the double digits, but the percentage decline was about half of what it was in the second quarter last year.

"We remain concerned by the high level of foreclosure activity, which we believe continues to put pressure on the housing markets in (markets such as California and Florida), as reflected in lower sales of basic building material products," he said.

Home Depot earned \$1.12 billion, or 66 cents per share,

Home Depot 2Q profit beats expectations

for the three months ended Aug. 2. That's down from \$1.2 billion, or 71 cents per share, a year earlier.

Excluding charges related to Expo, which Home Depot is closing, profit was 67 cents per share, topping analysts' estimate of 59 cents per share, according to a poll by Thomson Reuters.

Quarterly results also included a tax benefit of about \$50

million, which boosted earnings by about 3 cents per share. Cost-cutting also helped results as total operating expenses fell 8 percent to \$4.56 billion.

Revenue dropped 9 percent to \$19.07 billion from \$21 billion, falling short of the \$19.23 billion analysts expected. Paint, outside garden products building materials, flooring and plumbing performed

better than average, while millwork, hardware, kitchen, lumber and electrical sold less well. Air conditioner and fan sales were weak due to cooler-than-average temperatures in June and July.

In California, however, weather was good, and the company said that drove garden sales, despite continued high unemployment and foreclosures in the area. □

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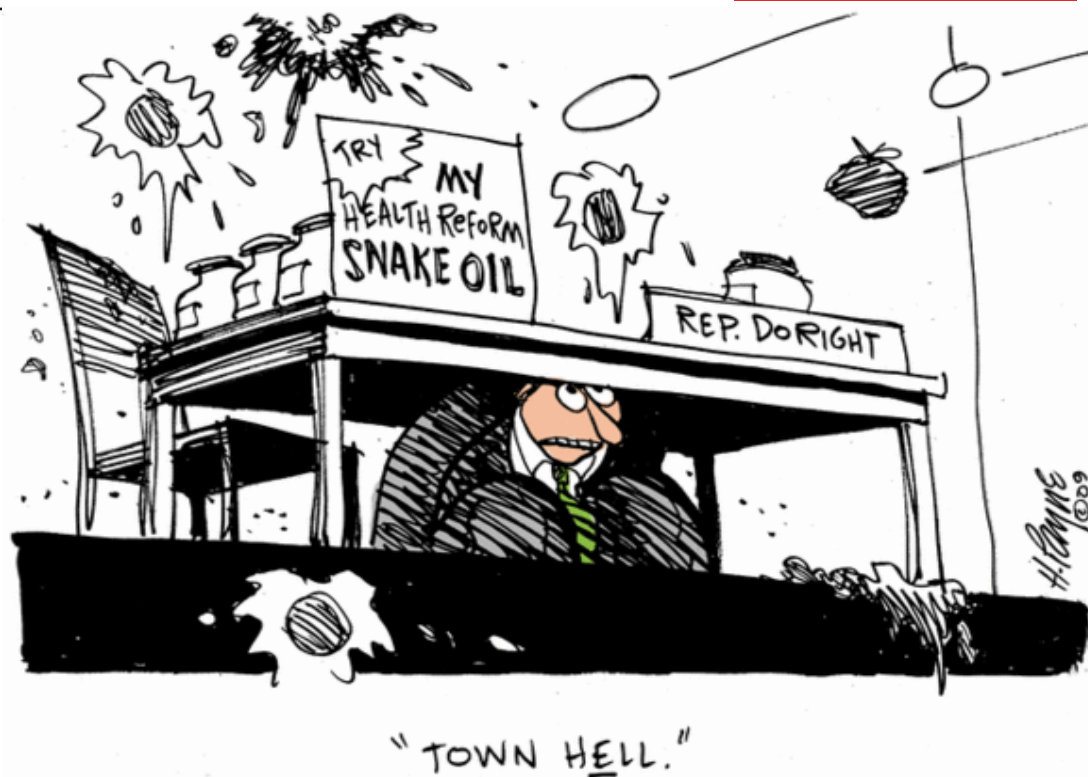
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Does the U.S. Economy Need a Job-Creation Stimulus?

By KEVIN O'LEARY

If the recession is over, as some economists say, why are so many people still unemployed? The so-called jobless recovery is raising an intriguing question: Should America resurrect something like the Works Progress Administration (WPA) - the New Deal job-creation program that put millions of unemployed Americans to work building schools, roads, parks, libraries and other needed infrastructure projects during the Great Depression?

Indeed, the current situation is stark. When people say there are no jobs out there, it's true. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, at the start of the recession in December 2007, the ratio of job seekers to job openings was 1.5 to 1. Now six unemployed workers chase every available job. It's a brutal game of musical chairs in which a great many people lose and spiral downward economically with disastrous consequences, not only for themselves and their families, but also for communities that were once productive and prosperous. (See pictures of life during the Great Depression.)

The Obama Administration and economists hailed the dip in July unemployment to 9.4% from the 9.5% level in June as an indication that the economy is beginning to recover. But the drop in unemployment is deceptive. Employers shed another 155,000 jobs in July. And the unemployment rate would have gone up, possibly to 9.7%, if the 400,000 Americans who had previously been searching for a job (but became so discouraged they stopped) had continued to seek employment in July. Economists expect the job picture to remain bleak well into 2010.

The standard unemployment number excludes both those who have given up looking for a job and those who have taken part-time jobs but want full-time work. Include them and the number jumps to 20% or higher in states such as Michigan, California, Rhode Island and Oregon, with Tennessee, Nevada and other states in the high teens.

Economist Heidi Shierholz of the Economic Policy Institute says the economy has lost 6.7 million jobs since the beginning of the recession and that the stimulus bill thus far has generated 750,000 jobs. But in addition to the nearly 7 million jobs lost, the national economy has failed to add the 127,000 jobs per month needed to keep up with population growth. "The real employment hole is 9.1 million jobs," says Shierholz. "The stimulus bill is great, but it will only generate 3 to 4 million jobs. Now that we can see how dramatically things have deteriorated, we need to think about job creation in the places, like Michigan, that are extremely hard hit. There are areas across the nation that are going to be very depressed for a long time." (In comparison, at the height of the Great

Depression, nearly 25% of the U.S. workforce - more than 11 million people - were unemployed.) (Read about the origins of the Great Depression.)

Why isn't the \$787 billion stimulus bill helping unemployment? It was never designed to be a jobs program. Instead it is an ambitious policy prescription to restart - and redirect - the economy in new directions over the next three years. Stimulus spending is not a fast-infusion jobs program, nor is it always targeted toward the hardest-hit states. For example, stimulus road-building largely bypasses large metropolitan regions where antiquated infrastructure snarls traffic to focus on rural areas and smaller states.

Desperate times in one especially hard-hit Tennessee county stirred Governor Phil Bredesen to get creative. As first reported in the New York Times, the result is a "novel use of stimulus money." In remote, tiny Perry County, where the unemployment rate had soared to 27% with the closure of an auto-parts factory, Bredesen decided a New Deal-style WPA program was the order of the day. Some of the jobs are with the state parks and transportation department, but two-thirds of them are new jobs in private sector businesses - including a pie company, a hotel and a factory that needs painting and repair - which are reimbursed by the state for the salaries of the eligible stimulus workers. Some of the businesses say the free labor has helped expand their market share, and they are hopeful that they can grow enough to keep the larger workforce when government assistance stops in October 2010.

See 10 perfect jobs for the recession [EM] and after.

See 10 ways your job will change.

"We consider it an unqualified success," Bredesen tells TIME, speaking about the 338 jobs created by the pilot program. "I wanted to do more than show concern. These are people with real obligations and, while I support clean energy [the thrust of much of the stimulus], people have to make car payments next month. I'd love to have a great deal more stimulus money to do this type of thing in other counties, but there is not a lot of money available. If there is another stimulus package, real consideration should be given to direct employment, in WPA fashion, in the public and private sector."

The WPA - the largest New Deal program, employing 8.5 million people and spending \$11 billion on public projects nationwide - was a real jobs program. More than 80% of its budget was dedicated to labor. In a speech at LSU in 1936, the WPA's legendary head, Harry Hopkins, gave a cogent synopsis of his agency's deep effect on the nation. "You can start out from Baton Rouge in any direction and pass through town after town which has water facilities or

sewer facilities or roads or streets or sidewalks or better public buildings, which it would not have had but for the Works Progress Administration." (Read TIME's 1945 cover story on Hopkins, the second most powerful man in the U.S.)

"In the New Deal, they did everything they could think of to get people paychecks," says Alice Rivlin, a Brookings Institution scholar and former head of the Office of Management and Budget. "For example, there were WPA projects for artists and writers. In the 1970s, we put people to work during recessions doing useful things. These were mostly lower-skills jobs such as teaching assistants, home health-care workers and cleaning up parks. A similar program today could help a great deal with the high level of unemployment among young people."

Shierholz says policymakers should begin thinking about a second stimulus package focused on a jobs program. "If we passed a \$200 billion jobs bill, that could create roughly 4 million jobs paying between \$40,000 and \$50,000," she says. "Four million temporary public sector jobs, for a year or two in duration, would bridge the employment gap while the economy recovers." Voting against the \$787 billion measure, GOP Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said, "There are so many things in the package completely unrelated to creating a job in the next 18 months." Only 11% of stimulus money was targeted toward infrastructure, and less than 10% of the jobs created have been public sector jobs.

There are those who caution against a jobs program. Heritage Foundation scholar Brian Riedl is skeptical about the benefit. "Every dollar that Congress injects into the economy must be first taxed or borrowed out of the economy," says Riedl. "The jobs we create in one county come at the cost of jobs in another county. It is a zero-sum game." Riedl believes there are times when government action is called for on humanitarian reasons. But in terms of economic growth, he says, "the only government spending that creates a net bonus for the economy is spending that results in gains for long-term productivity."

Nevertheless, two weeks ago, White House economic adviser Christina Romer signaled that the Administration would consider a new stimulus measure if it did not see strong results from the current package. Prominent economists like Joseph Stiglitz say more stimulus is necessary to drive the economy forward. A jobs program focused on the nation's hardest-hit regions could have an impact. Nationally, 1 in 5 construction workers are unemployed. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, the nation has \$1.5 trillion in unaddressed infrastructure needs. "Clearly there are projects that need to be done," says Shierholz.

Michael Jackson to be buried on his birthday



Michael Jackson will be buried on August 29, the day the King of Pop would have turned 51, his family said in a statement on Tuesday.

(AFP/File/Carl de Souza)

What killed Mozart? Study suggests strep infection

By JOANN LOVIGLIO,
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — For more than two centuries, the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart has endured — as has the speculation about what led to his sudden death at age 35 on Dec. 5, 1791.

Was the wunderkind composer poisoned by a jealous rival? Did he have an intestinal parasite from an undercooked pork chop? Could he have accidentally poisoned himself with mercury used to treat an alleged bout of syphilis?

A report in Tuesday's *Annals of Internal Medicine* suggests the exalted Austrian composer might have succumbed to something far more commonplace: a streptococcal infection — possibly strep throat — that led to kidney failure. The researchers looked at death records in Vienna during the months surrounding Mozart's death — November and December 1791 and January 1792, and compared causes of death with the previous and following years.



FILE - This is an undated portrait of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. What killed Mozart so suddenly in 1791? A report in Tuesday's *Annals of Internal Medicine*, a medical journal published in Philadelphia, suggests it might have been something far more common: a strep infection.

(AP Photo)

"We saw that at the time of Mozart's death there was a minor epidemic in deaths involving edema (swelling), which also happened to be the hallmark of Mozart's final disease," said Dr. Richard Zegers of the University of Amsterdam, one of the study's authors. □

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY,
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — The King of Pop will be buried on what would have been his 51st birthday, a spokesman for Michael Jackson's family said Tuesday.

Jackson will be buried at a private ceremony at Forest Lawn-Glendale on Aug. 29, spokesman Ken Sunshine said in a statement. Guests will be limited to family and close friends, Sunshine said.

"The Jackson family once again wishes to express its gratitude to Michael's fans around the world for their support during these difficult times," the statement said.

Details about the ceremony and the whereabouts of Jackson's body have been tightly guarded. The announcement came a day after the New York Daily News reported comments by Jackson's father, Joe Jackson, that his son would be buried on what would have been his birthday.

Sunshine said Jackson will be buried on the Holly Terrace at the cemetery's Great Mausoleum. The cemetery's Web site describes the mausoleum as featuring replicas of works by Michelangelo. It also features a stained glass recreation of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper."

The cemetery is located in the city of Glendale, which is about 8 miles north of downtown Los Angeles. It is a different location from the Hollywood Hills cemetery where Jackson's family was seen gathering days after his death on June 25.

Forest Lawn spokesman Bill Martin said the cemetery does not comment on private funeral services or on steps that might be taken to handle fans who try to show up for the burial. "We've handled high-profile services in the past," Martin said.

He said the cemetery is on private property, and measures will be taken to discourage "loitering" on the day of Jackson's service. □

Spanish firm in talks to stage Michael Jackson exhibit

MADRID (AFP) — A Spanish firm said Tuesday it is in talks with the executors of Michael Jackson's estate to stage an exhibit of the late star's memorabilia which would tour the world.

The exhibit would contain 120 original objects belonging to the "King of Pop" as well as photos and a recreated stage from one of his concerts, the president of Musealia, Jesus Ferreiro, told AFP.

"We want to do this Michael Jackson exhibit because we think it would be interesting. The negotiations are super-complicated but I believe we can reach an agreement," he said in a telephone interview.

If the traveling exhibit goes ahead it will be called "Michael Jackson: Black and White of a Life" and an adult entry would cost 23 dollars (16 euros).

Based in the northern Spanish city of San Sebastian, Musealia is behind "Titanic The Exhibition" featuring items from the sunken ocean liner that has been seen by 28 million people around the world since it was launched in 2000. Ferreiro began his talks with John Branca, Jackson's longtime lawyer who was



Memorabilia and belongings of Michael Jackson on display for a press preview for Michael Jackson's Julien's Auctions Exhibit at Julien's Auctions in April 2009 in Beverly Hills, California. A Spanish firm said Tuesday it is in talks with the executors of Jackson's estate to stage an exhibit of the late star's memorabilia which would tour the world.

(AFP/Getty Images/File/Kristian Dowling)

named in the singer's will as an executor of his estate, on July 13, the company said in a statement, just 18 days after Jackson's death at age 50 from an apparent cardiac arrest. The negotiations over financial terms and other matters will continue once Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff, who is overseeing matters related to Jackson's estate, approves the staging of the exhibit, it added. Half of the revenues from the exhibition would go to Jackson's estate.

Since his death, Jackson's estate has already earned 100 million dollars through a film deal and various

merchandising contracts.

Branca and others estimate Jackson-related business could generate between 50 and 100 million dollars annually.

Set up in 2000, Musealia's main activity is creating and managing "high quality" travelling exhibitions for museums.

Last year it launched a new exhibit about the human anatomy, "Once Upon a Time...Life: The Human Body - The Exhibition", which recreates a trip through the interior of the human body. It has so far been seen by around half a million people around the world. □

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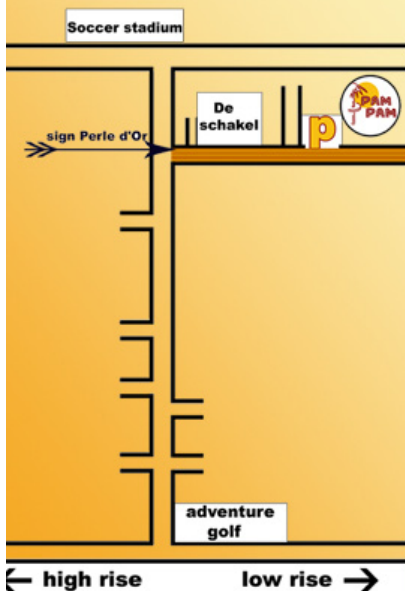
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This image provided by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department shows an encampment believed to be the origin of the La Brea Fire in Santa Barbara County. Investigators said Tuesday Aug. 18, 2009 they believe marijuana growers with possible ties to Mexican drug cartels caused an 88,650-acre wildfire in northern Santa Barbara County.

Associated Press

Suspects who sparked fire may be linked to cartels

GREG RISLING

Associated Press Writer

SANTA BARBARA, California (AP) — Investigators said Tuesday they believe marijuana growers with possible ties to Mexican drug cartels caused an 88,650-acre (35,900-hectare) wildfire in northern Santa Barbara County, and there are many more pot farms hidden in remote areas around the nation. "No pun intended, it's a growing problem," U.S. Forest Service Special Agent Russ Arthur said.

Arthur said an unspecified "cooking device" left at an encampment by suspected drug traffickers sparked the blaze on Aug. 8 that has scorched more than 137 square miles (87,680 acres) of brush and timber and briefly threatened two dozen ranches and homes.

About 30,000 marijuana plants and an AK-47 assault rifle were found near the origin of the blaze in a remote canyon in Los Padres National Forest, authorities said at a news conference. Arthur said the plants' quality is similar to marijuana linked to Mexican drug cartels, though he acknowledged the investigation into the link was ongoing.

"The type of location, the remoteness, the situation of the encampment, the type of plants, the quality ... it fits the same M.O. (modus operandi) as all the others we've worked,"

around the nation, Arthur said.

Fire crews were making progress against the fire on Tuesday, and it was 75 percent contained.

Farther north, a blaze in the Santa Cruz Mountains was 80 percent surrounded. All but about 20 of some 2,200 evacuees had been allowed back home by Sunday.

The fire has burned more than 7,100 acres (2,900 hectares), or about 11.2 square miles (29 sq. kilometers).

Some evacuation orders also have been lifted in the Sierra Nevada foothills, where a wildfire has charred more than 3,500 acres (1,400 hectares), or 5.6 square miles (14 sq. kilometers). The fire, which destroyed two homes when it first broke out Friday, is now 30 percent contained. The Santa Barbara County wildfire was the first in county history to have been caused by drug traffickers but such operations typically cause three to four smaller blazes in California each year, Arthur said.

Investigators said it's believed the number of clandestine marijuana farms in the United States is rising as international drug cartels turn to public lands.

"We have evidence that most of these types of marijuana grows are the work of drug organizations out of Mexico," Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bob Brown said.

Continued on Page B5

Political columnist Robert Novak dies at 78

**BARRY SCHWEID
WILL LESTER**

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Political columnist Robert Novak, a diehard conservative, pugilistic debater and proud owner of the "Prince of Darkness" nickname, has died after a battle with brain cancer.

His wife of 47 years, Geraldine Novak, told The Associated Press that he died at his home in Washington, D.C. early Tuesday. He was 78.

A household face as co-host of CNN television's "Crossfire," Novak had been a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times for decades. He was diagnosed with a brain tumor in July 2008, less than a week after he struck a pedestrian in downtown Washington with



In this Feb. 12, 2007 file photo, syndicated political columnist Robert Novak leaves federal court in Washington. Novak, who was a central figure in the Valerie Plame CIA leak case, has died.

Associated Press

his Corvette and drove away.

Continued on Page B4



In this image made from television, damage to the Sayano-Shushinskaya power station in southern Siberia is seen Monday, Aug. 17, 2009. An accident during repair work at Russia's largest hydroelectric plant on Monday killed at least eight workers, while as many as 65 others were missing after an engine room was suddenly flooded, officials said.

Associated Press

64 missing workers feared dead in Russian accident

NATALIYA VASILYEVA

Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — Divers scoured the near-freezing waters flooding the cavernous rooms of Russia's largest hydroelectric plant but the owner said it was doubtful that any of the 64 workers missing after an accident would be found alive.

Continued on Page B7

Obama sees encouraging Mideast peace prospects

STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

— President Barack Obama won lavish praise Tuesday from his guest, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, and spoke of an “extraordinary opportunity” for making peace in the Middle East.

Obama said he was encouraged by U.S. efforts to restart talks between Israel and the Palestinians. Seated next to Mubarak, who was making his first visit to the U.S. capital in five years, Obama thanked the Egyptian for joining him in trying to construct a deal that has eluded world leaders for more than six decades.

Returning the compliment, Mubarak asserted that Obama’s speech to the world’s Muslims, delivered in Cairo in June, had convinced Arabs that the United States truly was an honest broker.

The 81-year-old Egyptian leader, who was estranged from the former Bush administration, said Obama had “removed all doubts about the United States and the Muslim world.”

Mubarak said, “The Islamic world had thought that the U.S. was against Islam, but his (Obama’s) great, fantastic address there has removed all those doubts.”

Obama’s positive assessment of the peace effort was issued in response to a question about reports that Israel had stopped granting permission for new settlements in the West Bank, even though building in progress was continuing. Obama has made resuming peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians a major foreign policy goal, hoping a breakthrough there would lead to wider agreements among the Jewish state and its Arab neighbors.

To that end, Obama



has demanded that the Israeli government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu freeze construction of Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, land that the Palestinians want for a state. Netanyahu’s public refusal has opened a rare rift between the traditionally close allies.

Nevertheless, Obama said: “The Israeli government has taken discussions with us very seriously.” He said he was “encouraged by some of the things I am seeing on the ground.”

“All parties,” Obama said, “have to take steps to restart serious negotiations,” including Palestinian efforts to end the incitement of violence against Israel.

Obama took pains to include references to needed steps not only from Israel but also the Palestinians and the other Arab countries.

“If all sides are willing to move off of the rut that we’re in currently, then I think there is an extraordinary opportunity to make real progress. But we’re not there yet,” Obama said.

Mubarak said an end to Jewish settlement activity

was central to a resumption of Israeli-Palestinian talks and a wider improvement of ties among the Israelis and all of their Arab neighbors. Egypt made peace with Israel 30 years ago and Jordan, Israel’s eastern neighbor that formerly controlled the West Bank, followed suit, but not until 1994.

Mubarak took a traditionally tough stand about the hard issues that still must be settled between Israel and the Palestinians, saying he had told the Israelis that they must “forget temporary solutions and forget about temporary borders.”

The Arabs, backing a long-standing peace offer from Saudi Arabia, have said they were willing to recognize Israel and make peace if the Jewish state returns to borders as they existed before the 1967 Six-Day War. Israel annexed all of Jerusalem and captured the West Bank during that conflict.

Mubarak looked robust despite reports that he was growing increasingly frail and preparing his 46-year-old son, Gamal, as a successor.

Egypt has an exploding population, ravaged by widespread poverty and high unemployment. The Egyptian president, who has ruled the country for 28 years, has kept a lid on Egypt’s exploding social and fundamentalist Islamic religious pressures through heavy repression of much of the political opposition in Egypt. He has been particularly tough on the Islamic fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, which is represented unofficially in the Egyptian parliament and is the most organized group challenging Mubarak’s rule.

Mubarak had been a regular visitor to Washington during the Clinton administration. Then he stayed away to protest the U.S. invasion of Iraq and President George W. Bush’s intensified pressure to open the Egyptian political system and moderate its human rights policies.

That was in the past, Mubarak said.

“Relations between us and the United States are very good relations and strategic relations. And despite some of the hoops

that we had with previous administrations, this did not change the nature of our bilateral relations.”

Both leaders said they had talked about reforming Egypt’s political system, but Obama has been far less vocal publicly, an obvious bid to lower the temperature in relations with the Middle East’s most populous Arab country. Mubarak’s fulsome praise of Obama suggested the strategy was paying benefits.

U.S. critics, however, insist that Obama must not relent in pressuring Mubarak on reform.

On Iran, one of the largest and most complicated foreign challenges facing Obama, Mubarak said he and Obama talked at length about worries that Tehran is trying to build a nuclear weapon.

Mubarak — like Obama, Israeli leaders and many Arab countries — sees a nuclear-armed Iran as a “game-changing” possibility that could upend the power balance in the Middle East.

While noting they confronted the issue, neither leader indicated how they intend to move forward.

Obama has sought to establish a dialogue with the Iranians but has set a September deadline for Tehran’s Islamic leaders to respond.

A next U.S. step would center on efforts to enforce tougher U.N. sanctions aimed at punishing Iran economically and further isolating the Islamic regime, which claims it is developing the technology for nuclear generation of electricity, not a bomb.

Israel has spoken openly of a possible military attack on Iran’s nuclear facilities but is widely believed to have agreed to stand down to give the U.S. policy time to work. □

Woman charged with cyber harassment

BETSY TAYLOR

Associated Press Writer

ST. PETERS, Missouri (AP)

— A woman is accused of cyberbullying for allegedly posting photos and personal information of a teenage girl on the “Casual Encounters” section of a popular advertising Web site after an Internet argument.

Prosecutors said 40-year-old Elizabeth A. Thrasher posted the 17-year-old’s picture, e-mail address and cell phone number on the Web site in a posting that suggested the girl was seeking a sexual encounter. St. Charles County Lt. Craig McGuire said Tuesday that the victim is the daughter of Thrasher’s ex-husband’s girlfriend. The girl, who has not been named, received lewd messages and photographs from men she didn’t know and contacted police.

Thrasher, of St. Peters, is the first person charged with felony harassment in St. Charles County under a law passed in Missouri after the suicide of 13-year-old Megan Meier, who was the victim of an Internet hoax in a nearby community that drew international attention.

Thrasher was freed on \$10,000 bond, but the judge barred her from having a computer or Internet access at home. No one answered the door at her house in a neighborhood northwest of St. Louis. Neighbors said she and her two children had just moved in recently.

Her attorney, Michael Kielty, said what Thrasher was accused of was no different from someone posting a number on a bathroom wall, telling people to “call Jane Doe for a good time.”

“It may be in poor taste. It may be inappropriate, but it’s not criminal behavior,” Kielty said. He said the state law was poorly written and Thrasher was devastated by the charges.

Authorities said Thrasher and the 17-year-old’s mother had been arguing, and there was some back-and-forth bickering on MySpace among all three. “Who started what is up for debate,” said St. Charles County Prosecutor Jack Banas.

McGuire said Thrasher then created the posting on Craigslist—whose “Casual Encounters” section warns that the pages may include adult content—that included the teen’s picture, employer, e-mail address and cell phone number. She received calls, e-mails, text messages and pornographic photos to her cell phone, police said.

If convicted of felony harassment, Thrasher could face up to four years in state prison, or up to a year in county jail, and a \$5,000 fine, Banas said.

Under the harassment law that took effect last August, a cyberbullying offense can be charged as a felony if a victim is 17 or younger and the suspect 21 or older.

Misdemeanor cases have been filed since then.

The law was spurred by the Megan Meier case, in which an adult neighbor, her daughter and a friend were linked to a MySpace page concocted to appear to be that of a teenage boy. “Josh” initially flirted with Megan but then made hurtful comments shortly before she hanged herself. No state charges were filed, Banas has said, because the state lacked an applicable law at the time. A jury in California, where MySpace has its servers, found the neighbor, Lori Drew, guilty of three federal misdemeanors, but a judge overturned the verdicts and

said he would acquit her. His decision has not been finalized.

Given the awareness of cyberbullying that Megan’s story had raised, Banas had thought St. Charles County was “the most unlikely place” for another case to arise.

Megan’s mother, Tina Meier, who campaigns against cyberbullying, said Missouri’s updated law should be “used to the fullest extent.”

“This is not a joke,” Meier said. “There have been too many people who have taken their own lives, too many people and their families getting hurt by this.” □



In this photo released Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2009 by the St. Charles County (Mo.) Department of Corrections, 40-year-old Elizabeth A. Thrasher is shown. Thrasher has been charged with cyberbullying for allegedly posting a teenage girl’s photo and personal information on the “Casual Encounters” section of Craigslist.

Associated Press

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In this Feb. 12, 2007 file photo, syndicated columnist Robert Novak, left, and his attorney James Hamilton, leave federal court in Washington. Novak, who was a central figure in the Valerie Plame CIA leak case, has died.

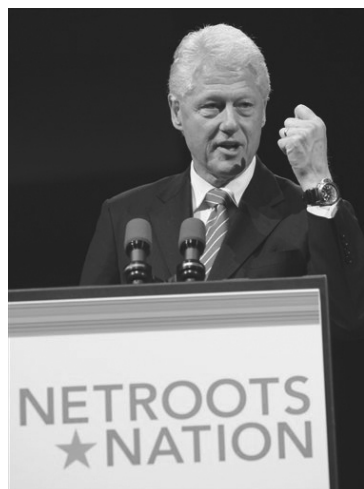
Associated Press

Obama talks to Bill Clinton about NKorean mission

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama planned to spend an hour with former President Bill Clinton on Tuesday in a debriefing session about Clinton's mission to North Korea that won the freedom of two imprisoned American journalists.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the session would be the second conversation between the two men, although the meeting in the West Wing situation room was to be the first in-person and in-depth debriefing between the current and former president. Clinton won the release on Aug. 4 of journalists Euna Lee and Laura Ling, who were working for Clinton's former vice president, Al Gore, at Current-TV. The former president also met and had dinner with North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Il.

Gibbs said Clinton has met with National Security Council staff twice and his associates also have had extensive discussions



Former President Bill Clinton addresses the Netroots Nation Convention at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pa., Thursday Aug. 13, 2009. Clinton says Republicans have turned to terrifying people in the debate over overhauling the health care system because the Republican Party has no political clout to fight it.

Associated Press

with the NSC, State Department and other agencies about the trip. □

NOVAK DIES

Continued from Page B1

"He was a Washington institution who could turn an idea into the most discussed story around kitchen tables, congressional offices, the White House, and everywhere in between," Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell said in a statement.

Said House Republican Leader John Boehner: "Bob made remarkable contributions in the field of journalism and to the American political landscape."

In recent years, Novak ended up actually being a part of a big Washington story, in ways he likely never intended, becoming a central figure in the Valerie Plame CIA leak case.

Novak was the first to publish the name of CIA employee, and he came under withering criticism and abuse from many for that column, which Novak said began "a long and difficult episode" in his career.

"I had a terrific time fulfilling all my youthful dreams and at the same time making life miserable for hypocritical, posturing politicians and, I hope, performing a service for my country," Novak wrote in his memoir, "The Prince of Darkness: 50 Years reporting in Washington."

Actually Novak had been dubbed the "prince of darkness" by a journalist friend early in his career, and he embraced it. He wrote in that 2007 memoir that he became proud of the label derived from his

"unsmiling pessimism about the prospects for America and Western civilization."

"He loved being a journalist, he loved journalism, he loved his country and his family," Geraldine Novak told The AP.

Novak, editor of the Evans-Novak Political Report, He is perhaps best known as a co-host of several of CNN's political talk shows, where he often jostled with liberal guests from 1980 to 2005. One of the best-known was "Crossfire."

While he became known as a strong conservative for his role on "Crossfire" and other CNN political shows like "The Capital Gang," he differed with conservatives on many issues, expressing doubts about invading Afghanistan and frequently criticizing the war in Iraq. Novak wrote in his book about often giving politicians the choice of being a source or a target, a strategy that often produced scoops for his column.

With a lengthy list of highly-placed sources, a high public profile and a relentless approach to reporting his column, Novak produced many scoops.

Among those scoops included a 2003 column in which he outed Plame as a CIA agent. The article was published eight days after Plame's husband, Joseph Wilson, said the Bush administration had twisted prewar intelligence to exaggerate the Iraqi threat of nuclear weapons.

Citing two Bush administration officials, Novak revealed Plame

worked for the CIA on weapons of mass destruction. That blew her cover as a CIA operative and led to the investigation of who leaked that information, and eventually to the conviction of I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff. Libby's prison sentence was later commuted by President George W. Bush.

Born and raised in Joliet, Illinois, Novak began his career in journalism in high school as a sports stringer for the Joliet Herald-News, then worked at the Champaign-Urbana Courier while attending the University of Illinois.

Following college, he served stateside in the U.S. Army as a lieutenant during the Korean War from 1952-54. He went on to work for The Associated Press in Omaha, Nebraska, and in Indianapolis, eventually working for the AP's Washington bureau, where he covered congressional delegations for several Midwestern states.

In 1958, Novak joined the staff of the Wall Street Journal and soon became their chief congressional correspondent.

In 1963 he teamed up with the late Rowland Evans Jr. to pen a political column that lasted 30 years. They were journalism's odd couple — Evans was polished and charming while Novak was often ruffled and grouchy. Evans died in March 2001, and Novak continued to write the column until his brain tumor diagnosis in July. □

FIRE ARTELS

Continued from Page B1

"The profits that are earned through the sales of the marijuana grows are pumped back to the drug cartels and they use the money to fuel the violence south of the border."

Tens of thousands of marijuana plants have been seized in recent weeks as federal, state and local officials stage annual harvest-season sweeps for clandestine farms.

In Santa Barbara County alone, sheriff's investigators have recovered more than 225,000 pot plants in the past five months, Brown said. The plants have an estimated street value of about \$675 million.

In the Sierra Nevada, an ongoing search has resulted in dozens of prosecutions and the destruction of more than 400,000 marijuana plants. The campsite associated with the fire was at the bottom of a canyon slope that was being used for pot production, authorities said. The 2- to 6-foot (1.2- to 1.8-meter)-tall plants were not burned in the fire but were later pulled up and destroyed by authorities.

Officials showed a photograph of the makeshift campsite where burnt cans and pots littered the

ground. A propane tank also was found, authorities said.

As many as six people were believed to have been at the camp, authorities said. No one has been arrested but some of those who fled the camp may still be in the forest, authorities said.

Some of the people staying at the encampment apparently returned several days after the fire began, authorities said.

There have been 100 arrests of suspected growers and traffickers in California this year, most of them involving Mexican nationals.

But Brown said no arrests have been made in Santa Barbara County. Most traffickers manage to flee at the first sign of trouble, he said.

"They can hear when we are coming," Brown said. "They are prepared for, and make an escape soon as they hear the helicopter."

Investigators believe there are many more marijuana crops still undiscovered. California is estimated to be the largest marijuana producer among some 15 producing states.

"We're not getting all of them," Brown said. "The reality is that we are seeing an increase in



In this Jan. 27, 1970 file photo, members of Charles Manson's "family" are shown outside the courtroom in the Los Angeles Hall of Justice after a hearing. From left are Lynette Fromme and Catherine "Gypsy" Share.

Associated Press

the numbers. That's cause for concern." Although the wildfire appeared to be an accident, illicit marijuana production carries its own dangers. Authorities say growers sometimes set traps or use armed guards.

In Santa Barbara County, at least one slaying has been linked to

pot production. Authorities accused four men of killing Adan Cervantes Ruiz, 23, who was shot and left wrapped in a sleeping bag along a highway near Los Olivos in September 2007. However, charges were dropped earlier this year because of insufficient evidence.

Authorities contend he was killed by men transporting packaged, processed marijuana from a farm south of Lompoc. A week later, authorities raided the fields, recovering about 93,000 plants. Five people were arrested, including Ruiz's brother. □

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Bomb attack kills 7 in Kabul; UN staff among dead

FISNIK ABRASHI

Associated Press Writer

KABUL (AP) — A Taliban suicide bomber attacked a NATO convoy Tuesday on the outskirts of Kabul, killing at least seven people and wounding more than 50, officials said, just days before the presidential election that the militant group has vowed to disrupt.

Two U.S. soldiers were killed and three wounded in a separate blast, the U.S. command said.

Hours before the suicide blast, two mortar rounds struck near the presidential palace in Kabul, the U.S. military said.

Despite the uptick in violence, NATO announced Tuesday

that its forces would refrain from offensive military operations on election day and would undertake missions only if they were “deemed necessary to protect the population.”

Two Afghans working for the United Nations were among the dead in the suicide attack, the U.N. office in Kabul announced. Another Afghan U.N. employee was wounded, a U.N. statement said.

The suicide bomber used a car to strike the convoy as it traveled along a road near a British military base in the eastern edge of the city. The Interior Ministry said seven people were killed and 50 wounded.



British ISAF soldiers gather evidence next to destroyed cars at the scene of a suicide car bomb attack on the outskirts of Kabul, Tuesday Aug. 18, 2009. A Taliban suicide bomber attacked a NATO convoy, killing at least seven people and wounding more than 50, officials said, just days before the presidential election that the militant group has vowed to disrupt.

Associated Press

NATO said “reports indicate” that NATO troops “were killed and wounded in the blast” but gave no details.

Zabiullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, claimed responsibility for the blast in a telephone conversation with The Associated Press. The group has denounced the election and warned people to stay away from the polls.

In Kabul, British troops were guarding the site of the suicide attack as rescuers rushed the wounded to hospitals. An AP reporter at the scene saw British soldiers collecting what appeared to be body parts from the roof of an Afghan home. He also reported shouting matches between the British troops and Afghan security personnel at the blast site.

About a dozen private vehicles were destroyed near the road where the attack happened. People used their hands to dig through the rubble of damaged buildings. Families carried the wounded

away from the scene.

U.S., NATO and Afghan security forces are on high alert this week because of the Thursday vote. President Hamid Karzai is favored to win but faces a stiff challenge from former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah. About three dozen candidates are in the race.

The attack against U.S. troops occurred in eastern Afghanistan, the U.S. military said in a statement. It said two were killed and three were wounded when their vehicle struck a bomb but gave no further details.

Those deaths brought to 26 the number of U.S. service members killed in Afghanistan this month, according to an AP count.

Elsewhere, a suicide bomber struck the gates of an Afghan army base in the southern province of Uruzgan, killing three Afghan soldiers and two civilians, provincial police chief Juma Gul Himat said.

U.S. military spokeswoman Capt. Elizabeth Mathias had no details of damage or casualties from the attack on the presidential compound.

Neither Karzai or anyone else was wounded in the attack, said deputy presidential spokesman Hamid Elmi. He said the rounds probably hit “somewhere around the compound,” but he had no further details.

Attacks in Afghanistan have risen steadily the last three years. In a speech Monday in Phoenix, President Barack Obama said U.S. troops would help secure polling places so that the elections can go forward and Afghans can choose their own future. Obama said peace in Afghanistan “will not be quick” and “will not be easy.”

He added that the United States still has a deep interest in the long-term outcome. “This is not only a war worth fighting. This is fundamental to the defense of our people,” Obama said. □



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	matinee: 12:15	2:15	late show:	12:30	
PG-13 G.I. JOE THE RISE OF THE COBRA	daily: 5:45	8:30			
	matinee: 12:30	3:15	late show:	11:15	
PG-13 TRANSFORMER 2	daily: 8:00				
	matinee:		late show:	11:00	
R THE HANGOVER	daily: 7:30	10:00			
	matinee:		late show:	12:15	
R THE ORPHAN	daily: 6:15	8:45			
	matinee: 12:45	3:30	late show:	11:30	
PG HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE	daily: 4:15				
	matinee: 1:00		late show:		
PG ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS	daily: 4:00	6:00			
	matinee: 12:00	2:00	late show:		
PG ALIENS IN THE ATTIC	daily: 5:00	7:15	9:30		
	matinee: 12:15	2:45	late show:	12:00	

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13 DISTRICT 9	daily: 5:30	7:45	10:15		NEW
	matinee: 1:00	3:15	late show:	12:30	
R FUNNY PEOPLE	daily: 6:00	9:00			
	matinee: 12:00	3:00	late show:	12:00	
PG-13 THE PROPOSAL	daily: 9:30				
	matinee:		late show:	12:15	
PG HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE	daily: 4:30	8:00			
	matinee: 1:15		late show:	11:15	
R THE HANGOVER	daily: 7:30	10:00			
	matinee:		late show:	12:30	
PG G-FORCE	daily: 5:00	7:15			
	matinee: 12:45	2:45	late show:		
PG-13 JULIE AND JULIA	daily: 4:45				
	matinee: 2:00		late show:		
R THE UGLY TRUTH	daily: 4:45	7:00	9:15		
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RUSSIAN ACCIDENT
Continued from Page B1

Twelve other workers are already confirmed drowned or crushed to death in Monday's accident, which shut down the massive Sayano-Shushenskaya power plant in southern Siberia and left several towns and major factories without electricity. The plant provides 10 percent of Siberia's energy needs, according to Russian media reports. Two workers were found alive Monday in niches inside the flooded structure, RusHydro acting chief Vasily Zubakin was quoted as saying, but hope was fading for the 64 still missing.

"With every hour, there is less and less chance left that we will find somebody alive," RusHydro spokesman Yevgeny Druzyaka told The Associated Press on Tuesday. RusHydro officials say the water temperature around the plant is around 4 C (40 F). Regional Gov. Viktor Zimin refuted suggestions that rescue teams had heard knocking sounds from inside the plant after the accident, saying the dam's thick concrete walls would muffle any sounds from inside. Federal investigators said an explosion destroyed walls and the ceiling in a room where turbines are located and caused the room to flood. One of the plant's 10 turbines was destroyed, two were partly

destroyed and three others were damaged, officials said. The plant's dam, a towering structure that stretches a kilometer (more than half a mile) across the Yenisei River, was not damaged and towns downstream were not in danger, Emergency Situations Minister Sergei Shoigu said. Former plant director Alexander Toloshinov said some workers trapped in the flooded control room could have survived by finding a corner with some air left. Three groups of divers were searching for the missing workers both inside the flooded rooms and in the river outside, Shoigu said in televised comments, adding that the workers were now believed to have drowned or been crushed by debris from the explosion. The accident also produced an oil slick that by Tuesday stretched over 50 miles (80 kilometers) down the Yenisei. Crews were struggling to stop it but so far had not. Supplies from other power plants were being rerouted Tuesday to help cover the region's shortfall but it was unclear how long other power plants would be able to keep making up for the energy shortage. RusHydro said a faulty turbine at the plant, which began operating in 1978, was likely to blame. Investigators believe



Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, right, heads a meeting in Emergency Ministry Crisis center in Sayano-Shushenskaya power plant explosion issues, on the screen at the background, in Moscow late Monday, Aug. 17, 2009. An accident during repair work at Russia's largest hydroelectric plant on Monday killed at least 12 workers, while as many as 64 others were missing after an engine room was suddenly flooded, officials said.

the accident occurred after a defective lid of one turbine was torn off during repair work, Yelena Vishnyakova, another RusHydro spokeswoman, told the AP. Shoigu, however, said that was merely one of several theories about why the accident occurred, Russian news agencies reported. RusHydro said replacing the damaged equipment at the plant may take up to two

years but the undamaged turbines could be put back into operation in a month. More than 70 percent of all energy from the Sayano-Shushenskaya plant goes to four Siberian smelters of Rusal, the world's largest aluminum producer. Rusal reported Monday that it was operating as usual with smelters being powered from other plants. Analysts said the lack of

Associated Press
energy from the Sayano-Shushenskaya did not pose immediate risks for Rusal, but could seriously impede its development if the metals market picks up next year. RusHydro said each bereaved family would receive 1 million rubles (\$31,300) in compensation for their loss. The 12 dead workers are to be buried on Wednesday and Thursday. □



South Koreans carry a portrait of the late former South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung for a memorial service in Gwangju, south of Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009. Former President Kim Dae-jung, who spent years as a dissident under South Korea's military dictatorship and later won the Nobel Peace Prize for seeking reconciliation with communist North Korea, died Tuesday.

JEAN H. LEE

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea lost its most fervent champion of peace and democracy with the death of former President Kim Dae-jung, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to foster reconciliation on the Korean peninsula.

Born when Korea was one nation, Kim campaigned until the end for reconciliation with the communist North,

Associated Press defending his "Sunshine Policy" of openness even as he watched a decade of progress unravel under a new, conservative government.

He died at a Seoul hospital Tuesday after battling pneumonia for weeks, officials at Severance Hospital said. He was 85.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Il expressed his "deep condolences" to the ex-president's family in a rare message between the two

South Korea loses champion of Korean peace: Kim Dae-jung

countries still technically at war.

"The feats he performed to achieve national reconciliation and realize the desire for reunification will remain long with the nation," Kim Jong Il said according to a Wednesday report by the official Korean Central News Agency.

The two Kims made history when they shook hands at the start of a landmark summit in Pyongyang in 2000, vowing to put decades of enmity behind them and to work toward reconciliation. The next 10 years saw a flowering of inter-Korean relations.

But some called Kim Dae-jung, known as "DJ," a leftist liberal who propped up the North Korean regime with hundreds of millions of dollars in aid. Revelations that his administration made secret payments to North Korea before the summit in 2000 tarnished his reputation. Kim defended the payments as a way to secure peace with the North.

Still, even foes mourned his death, praising him as a tireless defender of democracy in a career that spanned South Korea's political upheaval, from its early years as a military dictatorship to its transformation into a full-fledged democracy.

"We lost a great political leader," said President Lee

Myung-bak, a conservative rival. "His accomplishments and aspirations to achieve democratization and inter-Korean reconciliation will long be remembered by the people."

Kim was a resilient fighter who survived at least five attempts on his life. An outspoken dissident, he also endured torture, kidnapping, prison, exile and several assassination attempts — including a dramatic 1973 abduction from a Tokyo hotel by South Korean intelligence agents.

His election to the presidential Blue House in 1997, after 40 years in the opposition, sent supporters in his southwestern home region dancing in the streets.

In Seoul on Tuesday, mourners burned incense and laid white chrysanthemums at a makeshift site outside City Hall. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who served as a vice foreign minister in Kim's administration, and former President Kim Young-sam were among leaders who paid their respects at the hospital. President Barack Obama also extended his condolences to Kim's family and the Korean people, saying Kim's "personal sacrifices on behalf of freedom are inspirational and should never be forgotten."

Though the exact date of his birth was unclear, Kim was

born into a farming family in South Jeolla province in Korea's southwest when the country was still under Japanese colonial rule.

He started a business after the end of Japanese occupation and it survived the 1950-53 war on the Korean peninsula. But as South Korea's government veered toward authoritarianism, he chose to go into politics and quickly marked himself as a dissident. After three losing bids, he was elected to the National Assembly in 1961. Days later, Maj. Gen. Park Chung-hee staged a military coup and dissolved parliament.

Kim ran for the presidency a decade later, nearly defeating Park, who altered the constitution to guarantee his rule in the future.

Just weeks after the election, Kim was in a traffic accident he believed was an attempt on his life. For the rest of his days, he walked with a limp and often leaned on a cane.

In 1973, South Korean agents broke into his Tokyo hotel room and dragged him to a ship where he claimed they planned to dump him at sea. The would-be assassins aborted the plan following intervention by U.S. officials, who sent an American military helicopter flying low over the ship. □



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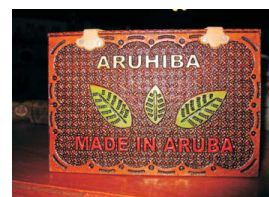
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Filipino troops clash with gunmen near resorts

HRVOJE HRANJSKI

Associated Press Writer

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine troops stormed a remote southwestern islet Wednesday to remove some 30 Muslim gunmen who took over a village near beach resorts popular with foreign tourists, a navy spokesman said.

Two of the gunmen were killed and another two captured when marines landed in Balabac township in the southernmost part of Palawan Island, said navy spokesman Col. Edgardo Arevalo. The marines were going house-to-house searching for the rest of the gunmen, who appeared to have split up, he said. Navy ships were patrolling nearby waters to prevent them from escaping, he said.

None of the resorts were under immediate threat from the military operation.

The raiders led by Abdullah Abdurajak, a commander facing charges of illegal possession of firearms, started extorting money from residents and seized a mosque over the

weekend, the military said.

They did not air any demands and at one point took two residents hostage before releasing them, Arevalo told The Associated Press.

He said they claimed to be members of the Moro National Liberation Front, a Muslim separatist group that signed a peace deal with the government in 1996 in exchange for an autonomous region in the southern Philippines that did not include Palawan.

Many of its fighters have refused to disarm, adding to insecurity in a region where two other Muslim rebel groups operate — the larger Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has continued to fight for Muslim self-rule, and the Abu Sayyaf, a smaller, more violent al-Qaida-linked group. Palawan province, famous for white-sand beaches and pristine forests, caves and waterfalls, has been largely isolated from the decades-long Muslim rebellion that has ravaged the main southern region of Mindanao and nearby



Members of the Philippine Coast Guard look at a vintage artillery cannon at Coast Guard headquarters in Manila, Philippines on Monday, Aug. 17, 2009. The said the cannon, believed to have been used during the World War II, was brought to authorities after it was discovered by private contractors during dredging operations of the Pasig River.

Associated Press

Basilan and Jolo islands.

Most of the diving and beach resorts are located in northern Palawan, while the south is largely infested with malaria-

carrying mosquitoes.

In May 2001, Abu Sayyaf militants raided the Dos Palmas resort in central Palawan and kidnapped three Americans and

17 other tourists.

One of the Americans was beheaded and another was killed during a military rescue the following year. □



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What retirement? Favre coming back with Vikings

DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Sports Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minnesota (AP) — NFL great Brett Favre turned his back on retirement for the second time in as many years by agreeing to play for the Minnesota Vikings on Tuesday.

The quarterback, who turns 40 in October, flew from his Mississippi home to Minnesota, arrived to cheering fans outside the team's practice facility and was in a helmet and pads less than 90 minutes later. His red practice jersey was the familiar No. 4, the same number he wore for years with the rival Green Bay Packers.

The Vikings confirmed a deal, but terms were not immediately disclosed.



New Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre, center, holds up a jersey as he is flanked by team president Mark Wilf, left, and team owner Zygi Wilf during a news conference at the team's NFL football training facility, Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009 in Eden Prairie, Minn.

Associated Press

"I felt I did everything I possibly could do to get where I need to be," Favre said. "You're 39, your arm may not feel like it did at 21. But the pieces are in place that you don't have to do that much and I agree with that. "If they were willing to take that chance, I was, too."

This is the second comeback for Favre, who holds nearly every NFL career passing record and a record three league MVP awards. A year ago, he came out of a short retirement to join the New York Jets. Now the question becomes how Favre will fit in with a team that's already done with the grind of training camp, not to mention how his health will hold up so soon after he questioned it.

Continued on Page B12



Venus Williams of the United States, reacts during her 1-6, 7-5, 6-4 loss to Kateryna Bondarenko of the Ukraine during the Rogers Cup tennis tournament in Toronto on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009.

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Venus Williams' tuneup for the U.S. Open hit a surprising roadblock in a 1-6, 7-5, 6-4 loss to Ukraine's Kateryna Bondarenko in the second round of the Rogers Cup on Tuesday.

Williams, ranked third, lost to an opponent ranked 64th. Williams was playing at this tournament for the first time since 1997 when she was 17.

Venus loses early again at Rogers Cup

She has lost all three of her matches at the Rogers Cup.

"I was definitely expecting to play well and to go very far in the tournament," Williams said. "It's disappointing."

Bondarenko hadn't taken a set off the American in two previous matches.

"I was playing really good," Bondarenko said. "The first set, I didn't know what to do with her power. The rest of the game, I just tried to keep the ball in play."

Williams controlled the first set but couldn't shake Bondarenko, who chased down shot after shot in stifling Rexall Centre. Bondarenko won the last three games for the second set, and broke Williams once more in the third. She won 20 of 28 service points in the deciding set.

"She played well," Williams said. "She really started playing consistently. Unfortunately I made too many errors. I would

have liked to play a cleaner match."

Kim Clijsters cruised past Elena Baltacha of Britain 6-3, 6-4. The 2005 Rogers Cup champion and former world No. 1 looked solid from beginning to end in her second tournament following more than two years away from tennis.

In the late match, Australian Samantha Stosur made short work of No. 6 seed Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-4, 6-3.

Former No. 1 Ana Ivanovic, still seeking for her first title of the year, overcame a slow start to defeat Magdalena Rybarikova of Slovakia 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the first round.

"I felt my movement, my shots, everything was working well, but I was trying to play a little too safe, I think," Ivanovic said.

"She's a good player, and she was playing really aggressive and dominant." □



Lleyton Hewitt of Australia, reacts during his match with Robin Soderling of Sweden, at the Cincinnati Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Lleyton Hewitt saved two match points in beating Robin Soderling 3-6, 7-6 (8), 6-4 in the first round of the Western and Southern Financial Group Masters on Tuesday.

Hewitt, a two-time tournament runner-up, saved both match points in the second-set tiebreaker at 6-5 and 8-7 before winning it 10-8 then breaking the Swede in the

Hewitt saves two match points to win at Cincinnati

first game of the last set and holding on.

Hewitt's health is his main concern — he had hip surgery last August and lost in the first round at Montreal last week because of a leg injury.

"My body felt a lot better," the former No. 1 said. "That was the difference. It gave me a lot of confidence to be able to actually go out there and compete. Last week in Montreal, I couldn't compete, which is frustrating."

Soderling, seeded 12th, was joined on the sidelines by No. 10 Fernando Gonzalez and No. 11 Fernando Verdasco. Gonzalez retired because of a sore knee after losing the first set 6-4 to Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic, while Verdasco was beaten by fellow Spaniard Guillermo Garcia-Lopez 7-6 (4), 7-6 (4). □

Richards wins, Bolt through to semis in 200

RAF CASERT

AP Sports Writer

BERLIN (AP) — Sanya Richards shook off years of disappointment Tuesday with her first major title in the 400 meters, pumping her fist with utter relief after crossing the line at the world championships.

Her main rival, Olympic champion Christine Ohuruogu of Britain, was way back in fifth. And Shericka Williams of Jamaica, an Olympic silver medalist in Beijing, finished second again.

"Finally I own a major title," Richards said.

With gold around her neck on the podium, she looked beyond the imposing grey stone of the Olympic Stadium and up at an evening sky filled with wispy pink clouds. There were no tears, just a beaming smile and intense happiness.

"I finally got it right," she said.

In the shadows of the Usain Bolt vs. Tyson Gay showdown, this was a duel that was supposed to be almost as good.

From Lane 3, Richards always had a good look at defending champion Ohuruogu's Lane 7 and she zoomed in on her over the first 300 meters. From then on, she only had to focus on the finishing line.

In Beijing last year, Richards faltered over the last 50 meters to let the Briton through. Not so this year.

The American crossed the line with her arms raised in celebration.

"It means the world to me," she said.

With a grin on her face, she danced a little number for screaming fans. With a time of 49.00 seconds, she also set the fastest mark of the year. She was .32 seconds faster than Williams.

Known for her competitive spirits, Ohuruogu conceded Richards had caught up with her in that department.

"She wanted it a little bit more than the rest of us," Ohuruogu said.

Not only did she keep all

competition back on the big day, she also shook off another flare-up from Behcet's syndrome, a rare disorder that causes chronic inflammation of blood vessels throughout the body.

Two years ago, she struggled with the disease when she failed to qualify for the worlds in Osaka, Japan. This time, the lesions on her legs, her stomach and inside her mouth were not going to conquer her.

Last year, her legs cramped up with gold in sight. Still, she admitted there was something else too that had held her back.

"Before, I had difficulties standing the pressure," Richards said. "But now I am a better athlete."

It made it all the sweeter Tuesday.

Completing a good day for the U.S. team, Kerron Clement successfully defended his men's 400 hurdles title, holding off a late challenge

from Javier Culson of Puerto Rico.

It left the United States on top of the medals table with three golds and seven overall, ahead of Russia with two golds and seven medals overall. Jamaica has two golds and five overall.

The United States needs all the medals it can get because it is struggling in the sprints.

Bolt, however, was looking to impose more pain in the 200.

Going for his second gold medal of the worlds, Bolt jogged across the line to advance to the semifinals of the 200.

Two days after setting a world record of 9.58 seconds to win the 100, the Olympic 200 champion ran a good curve and coasted through the final straight to finish in 20.41 seconds, a full 1.11 seconds behind his world record.

In the absence of injured defending champion Gay, Bolt is the overwhelming favorite for gold, and he said he would



United States' Sanya Richards, right, crosses the finish line to win the gold medal in the Women's 400m final during the World Athletics Championships in Berlin on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009.

Associated Press

try to get a second world record at the championships, too.

The Jamaican set a record of 19.30 seconds at the Beijing Olympics, widely considered one of the toughest to beat in the sport.

The U.S. team needs to change something quick to challenge the Jamaicans for sprint supremacy at the championships. They lost 5-0 in Olympic titles at the Beijing Games and are already 2-0 behind after the 100s. □

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Oakland Athletics' Brett Tomko, right, is visited by catcher Kurt Suzuki in the first inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees Monday, Aug. 17, 2009, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Brett Tomko pitched five scoreless innings to beat New York less than a month after being released by the

FAVRE

Continued from Page B10

Favre had arthroscopic surgery to fix his throwing shoulder in May and three weeks ago told coach Brad Childress he would stay retired, saying he had to be "careful not to commit for the wrong reasons."

The Vikings got an encouraging performance in their opening preseason win over Indianapolis last week from quarterback Sage Rosenfels, who has been competing with Tarvaris Jackson for the starting job. But neither of them have been

Yankees, winning his debut with the Oakland Athletics 3-0 in the American League on Monday.

Kurt Suzuki and Mark Ellis consistently sharp in practice this month.

And neither is anywhere in Favre's league. His zinger of an arm and toughness in the pocket are a combination few possess. With an offense he claimed this summer he could operate in his sleep, Favre seems to fit well with Minnesota — especially given the Vikings' problems finding a reliable quarterback since Childress took over in 2006. The Vikings have Pro Bowl players all over their roster, with reigning NFL rushing leader Adrian Peterson in

AL Roundup

Tomko, A's silence Yankees 3-0

had RBI hits in a three-run fourth inning against A.J. Burnett (10-6) in the Yankees' second straight loss on this West Coast trip.

Three relievers finished the shutout, the fourth this season against the Yankees, who lead the majors in home runs and are second to the Los Angeles Angels in runs scored.

Tomko (2-2) allowed five hits and one walk, throwing 78 pitches in his first start May 26, 2008, for Kansas City. Tomko started the season in the Yankees' organization and was called up to the majors in May. He went 1-2 with a 5.23 ERA in 15 relief appearances before being designated for assignment on July 21.

The A's signed him to a minor league deal earlier this month and he made three appearances in the minors before getting

the backfield and a dominant defensive line. No matter who's behind center, they ought to be in position to defend their NFC North division title.

To win the conference, and perhaps that elusive Super Bowl, they'll need stability at the sport's most critical position.

Favre has wrestled with retirement for most of this decade and the will-he-or-won't-he saga became an annual offseason drama for the Packers, his longtime home. In Green Bay, the latest news elicited a few shrugs,

the start against his former team.

Andrew Bailey pitched a perfect ninth for his 18th save, finishing Oakland's sixth shutout of the season.

Angels 8, Orioles 5

At Baltimore, Vladimir Guerrero hit two homers and had five RBIs, and Kendry Morales and Maicer Izturis also homered as Los Angeles downed Baltimore.

The Angels broke a 2-all tie with three runs in the sixth and three in the seventh.

Izturis broke the tie with a solo shot off rookie David Hernandez (4-5) in the sixth. Guerrero added a two-run drive.

In the seventh, Guerrero hit a three-run homer, his 10th of the season and 402nd for his career. He has 38 career multihomer games.

Ervin Santana (6-6) allowed three runs and seven hits in six innings to win his third straight start. Brian Fuentes got the final out for his 34th save.

The Angels have won six of seven overall and 20 of their last 26 on the road.

Rangers 8, Twins 5

At Arlington, Texas, Marlon Byrd drove in three runs as Texas beat Minnesota to extend its lead in the AL wild-card race.

After taking two of three over the weekend from Boston, the Rangers stretched their advantage to one game over the idle Red Sox.

In other AL games it was, L.A. Angels 8, Baltimore 5; Texas 8, Minnesota 5; Chicago White Sox 8, Kansas City 7; and Oakland 3, N.Y. Yankees 0.



little more.

A few months after Favre's tearful goodbye news conference in March 2008, Green Bay traded him to the Jets when he tried to come back, only to learn the Packers were committed to Aaron Rodgers. Favre started strong in New York, but faded at the end amid problems with his throwing arm and,

with another "I'm done" announcement, headed for his second retirement.

The Jets released him from his contract right after the draft and soon after, the Vikings were openly expressing interest. Favre spent the summer working out in Mississippi and led everyone to believe he was on his way back to the NFL until last month.

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Obispos de EEUU piden a Obama normalizar relaciones con Cuba

LA HABANA (Reuters) - Obispos de Estados Unidos pidieron el martes al presidente Barack Obama que no desperdicie la oportunidad de normalizar las relaciones con Cuba y aconsejaron que ambas partes busquen inspiración divina para superar medio siglo de mutua desconfianza.

Enviados de la Conferencia de los Obispos de Estados Unidos de visita en Cuba dijeron que Obama está siendo muy lento en su promesa de un nuevo comienzo para las relaciones con la isla.

“En esta coyuntura hay oportunidades y hay que procurar que no se pierdan”, dijo el obispo de la ciudad de Orlando, Thomas Wenski, a periodistas en La Habana.

“Son casi 50 años de falta de confianza en ambos lados (...) Es un montón de historia que superar. Pero por el bien de todas las

personas separadas y de quienes sufren por esa separación, esperamos que ambas partes escuchen a sus mejores ángeles”, añadió. Cuba y Estados Unidos están enemistados desde la revolución que llevó a Fidel Castro al poder en 1959 y convirtió luego a la isla en una nación comunista.

Obama prometió “relanzar” sus relaciones con Cuba y dijo en abril que eliminaría las restricciones para que los cubanos que viven en Estados Unidos viajen y envíen remesas a casa. Pero cuatro meses después, las regulaciones todavía no fueron publicadas. Andrew Small, director para América Latina de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, dijo que la lentitud de Obama se explica, en parte, porque su administración está inmersa en un proceso de revisión de sus política exterior. □



El arzobispo de Boston, Sean O' Malley, durante una conferencia de prensa en La Habana, 18 ago 2009. REUTERS/Enrique De La Osa

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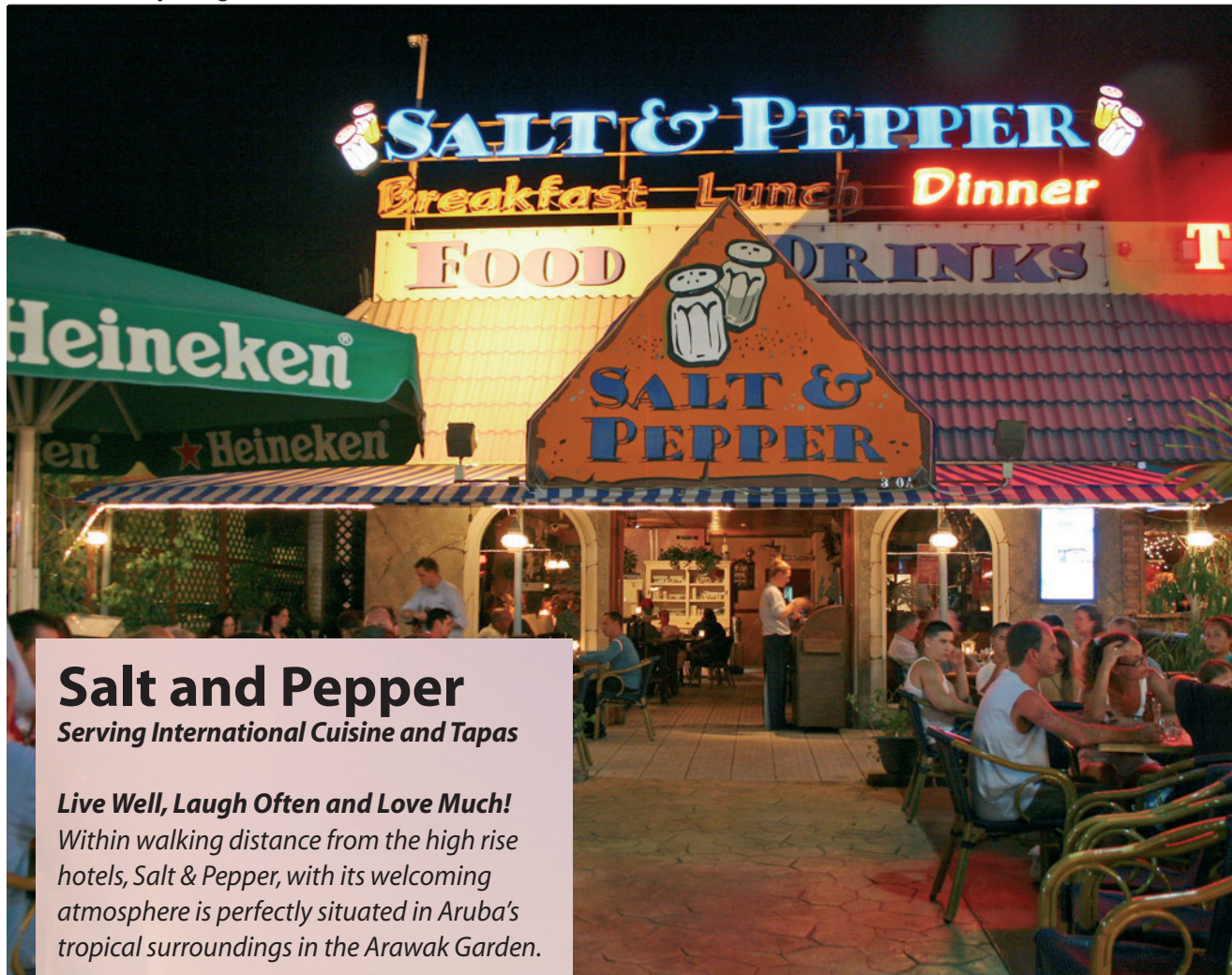
Kini Kini Building
Kerkstraat 2-B

Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz 52

San Nicolas
Caya Principal

TEL:

588-7919



Salt and Pepper

Serving International Cuisine and Tapas

Live Well, Laugh Often and Love Much!

Within walking distance from the high rise hotels, Salt & Pepper, with its welcoming atmosphere is perfectly situated in Aruba's tropical surroundings in the Arawak Garden.

Featuring a lengthy list of menu choices, Salt & Pepper has something for everyone and every taste. Enjoy Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner in an ideal setting for both indoor and lively outdoor dining in a relaxed atmosphere.

In Salt & Pepper's Kitchen the Chefs aim to please, cooking up everything from Fresh Fish to Pastas, Salads and Baguettes and Tasty Tapas too. Salt & Pepper is where your Burgers are always thick and juicy and you can count on Tenderloin cooked to perfection.

Salt & Pepper's friendly staff will impress you with generous hospitality as they serve you with a smile the blackboard's Daily Specials full of wonderful flavors and only fresh ingredients.

At the Salt & Pepper bar, the Service is top - rate with a wide variety of beers and ales to choose from, Tropical Potions and Wines from around the globe.

Hit up Salt & Pepper where friends meet up to enjoy great eats and drinks Live Music is offered Nightly.

www.saltandpepperaruba.com

Open Daily from 8am - 1am

Located at Arawak Garden



Café the Plaza



Tango Argentine Grill



Salt & Pepper



MooMba Beach



Sopranos Piano Bar



Matilde



Mambo Jambo



Hadicurari

Café the Plaza
(at Renaissance Marketplace, Downtown)
International Cuisine
Phone: 583-8826
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Daily Live music.
A Dutch style restaurant with moderate prices
Open from
10.00 am - 01.00 am
7 days a week
www.cafetheplaza.com

Tango Argentine Grill
(at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)
International Cuisine and Charcoal Grill
Phone: 586-8600
Dinner and Daily Live Music. World famous Argentine beef prepared on open charcoal grill.
Open from
5.00 pm - 11.00 pm
7 days a week
www.tangoaruba.com

Salt & Pepper
(at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)
International Cuisine and Tapas
Phone: 586-3280
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. Daily Live music by local artists and bands on our large terrace.
Open from
8.00 am - 01.00 am
7 days a week
www.saltandpepperaruba.com

MooMba Beach
(between Holiday Inn & Marriott Surf Club)
International Cuisine
Phone: 586-5365
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Daily Live Music. Enjoy dinner by torch light... barefoot on the beach. Open from
7.00 am - 11.00 pm
Bar open from
10.00 am - 01.00 am
www.moombabeach.com

Sopranos Piano Bar
(at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)
Bar with Live Entertainment
Phone: 586-8622
Extensive Cocktail menu. Daily live music, request your favorite songs and sing along! Open from
5.00 pm - 01.00 am
7 days a week
www.sopranospianobar.com

Matilde Restaurant
(Downtown)
International Cuisine
AAA/4 Diamond Award
Phone: 583-9200
Lunch and Dinner
A refined dining experience.
Restaurant open from
11.30 am - 11.00 pm
7 days a week
www.matildearuba.com

Mambo Jambo Latin Bar & Grill (Royal Plaza Downtown)
International & Latin Cuisine
Phone: 583-3632
Lunch, Dinner, Live Bands, Salsa Dancing, Great food and good music 7 days a week. Restaurant open from
11.00 am - 09.00 pm,
Bar open from
11.00 am - 04.00 am
www.mambojamboaruba.com

Hadicurari Restaurant
(between MooMba Beach and Marriott Surf Club)
International and Seafood Cuisine
Phone: 586-2288
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
'Seafood with a view'
Restaurant open from
8.00 am - 11.00 pm
7 days a week
www.hadicurari.com



WWW.ARUBAWINEANDDINE.COM

